Congressional Leaders -- Rally Behind the Cry:

Ted Kennedy Included -- 'Give Us All the Facts'

The hydra-headed probe of Central Intelligence Agency involvement in the John Kennedy assassination contains so many obfuscations and distortions only an act of Congress might resolve the issue.

Three government investigatory agencies have launched new probes of CIA involvement in domestic and foreign assassinations and the American public has met the initial results with astonishment and disbelief.

Investigating CIA activity in assassination plots are the Rockefeller Commission and the House and Senate intelligence committees.

And broadly-supported legislation has been introduced in the House of Representatives to create a select committee to launch new investigations into the assassinations of President Kennedy, his brother Sen. Robert Kennedy, Nobel Peace winner Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the attempted assassination of Alabama Gov. George Wallace.

The legislation was introduced by Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez, a Texas Democrat who was in the motorcade with Kennedy when the President was killed. His resolution has already been endorsed by more than 50 congressmen.

BUT THE MAJOR KEY to whether a new and serious official investigation is made of the assassinations of the Kennedys is the Kennedy family itself.

Now, for the first time, Sen. Edward Kennedy, the last surviving son of the Kennedy political dynasty, has relaxed his position on whether he wants the old wounds opened.

Ted Kennedy says he wants a new governmental probe of the assassinations of his two brothers if new evidence is available.

"Obviously it is painful for the family," he said to a reporter at a tiny airport at Keene, N.H., recently. "But the first consideration ought to be on the basis of what new evidence is available."

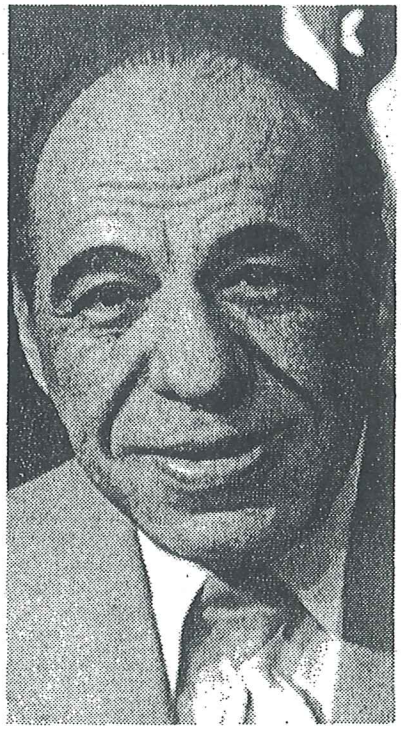
The consideration for the Kennedy family was the major reason given by President Lyndon B. Johnson when he ordered the complete files of the Warren Commission investigation of the John Kennedy assassination sealed until the year 2039.

JACK RUBY GAVE AS his notive for killing accused John Kennedy assassin Lee Harvey Oswald that he wanted to spare Jacqueline Kennedy the trauma of a public trial.

Critics of the Warren Commission conclusions have flooded the investigating agencies with testimony contradicting the "lone assassin" conclusion.

One of the country's leading medical experts claims that the Rockefeller Commission, in its final report on the domestic operations of the CIA, changed and falsified his testimony.

The expert, Dr. Cyril Wecht, the county



REP. HENRY B. GONZALEZ ... he introduced legislation which has been endorsed by 50 congressmen. Gonzalez said: 'What we need to know more than anything else is why they (the assassinations of JFK, his brother Robert and Martin Luther King) happened, and how we can prevent such events from happening again.'

coroner at Pittsburg, Penn., said the statements attributed to him in the Rockefeller Commission report were "reprehensible and an insult."

Wecht was the first layman to be allowed to examine the John Kennedy autopsy evidence in the National Archives. He concluded that the Warren Commission was wrong when it said two bullets from the rear struck and killed President Kennedy.

THE ROCKEFELLER COMMISSION report indicated Dr. Wecht had changed his mind and quoted the coroner as saying "available evidence all points to the President being struck by two bullets coming from the rear, and that no support can be found for theories which postulate gunmen to the front or right front of the presidential car."

On the contrary, Wecht said he told the commission he still is convinced at least two gunmen were involved in the Kennedy assassination. He said he thinks one gunman fired a shot from the grassy knoll in Dealey Plaza in front of the limousine in which Kennedy was riding.

Numerous other private Kennedy death researchers, interviewed by TATTLER, have presented evidence to the Rockefeller Commission or to staff members of the House and Senate committees.

ONE SUCH RESEARCHER claims to have the details of what happened in Dealey Plaza during the noon hour on Nov. 22, 1963. He is Richard H. Popkin, professor of philosophy at Washington University in St. Louis and author of "The Second Oswald," Popkin is considered among the most respected and academic of the assassination researchers.

Popkin notified government officials that he has a document naming the actual killers of President Kennedy and how the death conspiracy was arranged by the Central Intelligence Agency.

Popkin told TATTLER he has 3,000 pages of documents to support his findings.

More evidence that the Warren Commision's "lone assassin" conclusion was a cover-up was reported recently in the Chicago Tribune, a fortress of conservative journalism.

The Tribune reported, attributing the information to a CIA liaison officer, that FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, now dead, or one of his key men instructed two close aides to John Kennedy to change their eyewitness testimony about what happened in Dealey Plaza.

TRIBUNE COLUMNIST Bob Wiedrich quoted the CIA man as saying Kennedy aides Kenneth O'Donnell and David Powers told investigators shortly after Kennedy was killed that they believed they had seen shots coming from a location other than the Texas School Book Depository Building where Oswald allegedly fired three shots.

The Tribune's information was that the FBI asked O'Donnell and Powers to change their testimony to conform with the official version for the sake of world peace and national tranquility.

As the Rockefeller Commission and the House and Senate intelligence committees pushed their probes, Congressman Gonzalez rallied heavy support for his House resolution that would create a seven-member select committee to study circumstances surrounding the deaths of President Kennedy, Sen. Robert Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther King and the attempted murder of Governor Wallace.

Three monts after he initially presented the resolution, Gonzalez re-introduced the

legislation after gaining the quick support of 28 other congressional co-sponsors.

In addition to the co-sponsors of the legislation, numerous other members of both the House and Senate are eager for new investigations into the assassinations.

IN RE-INTRODUCING his resolution, Gonzalez told Congress:

"It is time that the circumstances surrounding these assassinations and the near-murder of Wallace be thoroughly investigated, and that they be assessed in terms of what effects they had on the history and the national political life of this country.

"It is not just a matter of finding out who, if anyone else, was involved in these killings, although this would certainly be important.

"WHAT WE NEED to know more than anything else is why they happened, and how we can prevent such events from happening again."

Noting the widespread interest in restudying the assassination of President Kennedy, Gonzalez said it is important that the other cases be investigated.

"It is time," Gonzalez said, "that the Congress took action to try to find the answers to the many unresolved questions, and what these assassinations were really all about."

Though the official versions of the assassinations were first dissected and challenged by private researchers, many of the points have gained the backing of some of the nation's leading medical experts.

SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY was killed by Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, acting alone, claimed the Los Angeles Police Dept. But some of the nation's top criminologists and medical experts dispute the official version and contend that more than one gunman was involved.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, the Nobel Prize winning civil rights leader, was murdered by James Earl Ray, acting alone, the FBI contended. But Ray's attorneys now claim Ray was framed by a man named "Raoul."

GEORGE WALLACE was shot and paralyzed by Arthur Bremer, acting alone, authorities claim. But Wallace himself is convinced a conspiracy was involved and has raised many valid questions about how Bremer could have traveled in luxury with no obvious sources of income as he planned the shooting.

Co-sponsors of the legislation to reopen the assassination probe, which has yet to be acted upon by Speaker Carl Alber, include:

George Brown, Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, William M. Ketchum, Edward R. Roybal and Charles H. Wilson, all of California;

Stuart McKinney and Anthony Toby Moffett of Connecticut, Walter E. Fauntroy of Washington D.C., Antonio Borja Won Pat of Guam, Andrew Young of Georgia, Robert Carr of Michigan, Bella Abzug, Mario Biaggi, Herman Badillo, Shirley Chisholm, Thomas J. Downey, Edward I. Koch, John M. Murphy, Richard L. Ottinger and Benjamin S. Rosenthal, all of New York;

Paul Tsongas of Massachusetts, James J. Florio and Henry Helstoski of New Jersey, Stephen L. Neal of North Carolina, Louis Stokes of Ohio, Larry Pressler of South Dakota, Harold Ford of Tennessee and Parren Mitchell of Maryland.

SEN. TED KENNEDY ... 'obviously it is painful for the family. But the first consideration ought to be on the basis of what new evidence is available.'